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Security Council

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Letter dated 30 November 2004 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 1 to 31 October 2004 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

04-63209 (E) 021204

Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. The present report covers the period from 1 to 31 October 2004.

2. As at 31 October 2004, the total number of troops in theatre was 18,811, including 2,937 troops from non-NATO countries.

3. There is no change in the status of partner/non-NATO country contributions.

Security

4. The general situation in Kosovo, though apparently calm, remains fragile and tense and is expected to remain so for the foreseeable future.

5. On 23 October 2004, Kosovo held its second Assembly-wide elections, which passed without incident.

6. Eleven ethnically motivated incidents were reported in October 2004, which is the same level as during September 2004. The traditional decline in such incidents during the autumn has not been apparent, although one should note that this year's weather conditions are milder than in previous years.

7. The threat against the Kosovo Force (KFOR) remained relatively low during the month of October.

8. In terms of organized crime, a total of 24 incidents were reported in relation to drug trafficking, the discovery of illegal weapons and smuggling operations during the month of October. This shows a decrease of 20 per cent compared to September. Counterfeit currency cases and illegal weapon discoveries are decreasing, while drug-related incidents remain consistent.

9. The operational rehearsal for reserve forces in the Balkan joint area of operations, "Determined Commitment 2004", took place from 11 October to 6 November 2004 in Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The rehearsal was timed to have the maximum impact during the elections in Kosovo on 23 October and in preparation for the NATO-European Union transition in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

10. As reported last month (see S/2004/859, annex), KFOR still continues operations to secure the theatre, avoid ethnic violence and protect patrimonial sites. KFOR also remains vigilant to deter possible threats directed against international organizations and military bases. The NATO force continues to improve its crowd and riot control capabilities in order to be better prepared to counter a resurgence of violence.

Compliance by the army of Serbia and Montenegro and the Ministry of Internal Affairs Special Police

11. No breaches of the Military Technical Agreement were reported during October 2004.

Kosovo Protection Corps

12. The current membership of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) is 2,959 active members, including 130 minorities, 27 of whom are Serbs. The reserve personnel establishment list includes 1,809 members, 17 of whom are from ethnic minorities. The percentage of minority representation has decreased from 4.69 per cent in September to 4.26 per cent in October 2004.

13. During September 2004, the multinational brigades carried out 25 roll calls and 1 Kosovo-wide roll call. The percentage of personnel absent without permission decreased from 1.74 per cent in September to 0.45 per cent in October 2004.

14. The KFOR Headquarters Inspectorate of KPC has drafted a new directive on the authorization of KPC field exercises on secure environmental practices. Minor changes to the text have been requested prior to implementation. The KFOR Commander has listed this item as requiring urgency and has been in touch with the Office of the KPC Coordinator at the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo on this issue.

Conclusion

15. Reinforcements associated with the former "Determined Commitment" exercise contributed to the KFOR Commander's ability and flexibility to react to any potential crises during the election period. As yet, there has been no significant reaction to the electoral results, which were largely as predicted.